

VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

In the claims:

Please cancel claims 1, 7, 12, 14, 19 and 20, without prejudice.

Please amend claims 2, 4-6, 8, 13, 15-18, and 21 and add claims 23-26 to read as follows:

2. The method of claim ~~1~~ 23 further comprising:
receiving encoded information from the content server; and
decoding the encoded information
~~selecting at least one recognized audio command having a recognized audio~~
~~command confidence value from the at least one first recognized audio~~
~~command and the at least one second recognized audio command based on~~
~~the at least one first confidence value and the at least one second~~
~~confidence value.~~
4. The method of claim 2 further comprising:
prior to accessing the content server, executing at least one operation based on the
at least one recognized audio command.
5. The method of claim ~~2~~ 4 further comprising:
verifying the at least one recognized audio command.
6. The method of claim ~~1~~ 23 further comprising:
prior to accessing the content server, generating an error notification when the at
least one first confidence value and the at least one second confidence
values are below a minimum confidence level.
8. (Amended) The method of claim ~~7~~ 24 further comprising:

prior to accessing a content server, generating an error notification when the at least one terminal confidence value and the at least one network confidence value are below a minimum confidence level.

9. (Amended) The method of claim 724 further comprising:
prior to selecting the at least one recognized audio command, weighting the at least one terminal confidence value by a terminal weight factor and the at least one network confidence value by a network weight factor.

10. (Amended) The method of claim 724 further comprising:
filtering the at least one recognized audio command based on the at least one recognized audio command confidence value; and
executing an operation based on the recognized audio command having the highest recognized audio command confidence value.

11. (Amended) The method of claim 724 further comprising:
verifying the at least one recognized audio command to generate a verified recognized audio command; and
executing an operation based on the verified recognized audio command.

13. (Amended) The apparatus of claim 1425 further comprising:
a the dialog manager operably coupled to the means for receiving, wherein the means for receiving selects the at least one recognized audio command having a recognized confidence value from the at least one first recognized audio command and the at least one second recognized audio command based on the at least one first confidence value and the at least one second confidence value, ~~wherein the selected at least one recognized audio command is provided to the dialog manager.~~

15. (Amended) The apparatus of claim 1425 further comprising:

wherein the dialog manager ~~accesses a content server and~~ retrieves encoded information in response to the dialog manager audio command.

18. (Amended) The apparatus of claim 17 wherein when the ~~comparator~~ means for receiving provides the dialog manager with an error notification, the output message is an error statement.

21. (Amended) The system of claim ~~20~~26 further comprising:
wherein the dialog manager ~~accesses a content server and~~ retrieves encoded information from the content server in response to the dialog manager audio command.

23. (Added 11/20/02) A method for multi-level distributed speech recognition comprising:

providing an audio command to a first speech recognition engine and at least one second speech recognition engine;

recognizing the audio command within the first speech recognition engine to generate at least one first recognized audio command, wherein the at least one first recognized audio command has a corresponding first confidence value;

recognizing the audio command within the at least one second speech recognition engine, independent of recognizing the audio command by the first speech recognition engine, to generate at least one second recognized audio command, wherein the at least one second recognized audio command has a corresponding second confidence value;

selecting at least one recognized audio command having a recognized audio command confidence value from the at least one first recognized audio command and the at least one second recognized audio command based on

the at least one first confidence value and the at least one second confidence value; and

accessing a content server in response to the at least one recognized audio command.

24. (Added 11/20/02) A method for multi-level distributed speech recognition comprising:

providing an audio command to a terminal speech recognition engine and at least one network speech recognition engine;

recognizing the audio command within the terminal speech recognition engine to generate at least one terminal recognized audio command, wherein the at least one terminal recognized audio command has a corresponding terminal confidence value;

recognizing the audio command within the at least one network speech recognition engine to generate at least one network recognized audio command, wherein the at least one network recognized audio command has a corresponding network confidence value; and

selecting at least one recognized audio command having a recognized audio command confidence value from the at least one terminal recognized audio command and the at least one network recognized audio command; and

accessing a content server in response to the at least one recognized audio command.

25. (Added 11/20/02) An apparatus for multi-level distributed speech recognition comprising:

a first speech recognition means, operably coupled to an audio subsystem, for receiving an audio command and generating at least one first recognized

audio command, wherein the at least one first recognized audio command has a first confidence value;
a second speech recognition means, operably coupled to the audio subsystem, for receiving the audio command and generating, independent of the first speech recognition means, at least one second recognized audio command, wherein each of the at least one second recognized audio command has a second confidence value; and
a means, operably coupled to the first speech recognition means and the second speech recognition means, for receiving the at least one first recognized audio command and the at least one second recognized audio command;
a dialog manager operably coupled to the first speech recognition means and the second speech recognition means and operably coupleable to a content server; and
the dialog manager determines a dialog manager audio command from the at least one recognized command confidence levels and wherein such that the dialog manager access the content server in response to the dialog manager audio command.

26. (Added 11/20/02) A system for multi-level distributed speech recognition comprising:

a terminal speech recognition engine operably coupled to a microphone and coupled to receive an audio command and generate at least one terminal recognized audio command, wherein the at least one terminal recognized audio command has a corresponding terminal confidence value;
at least one network speech recognition engine operably coupled to the microphone and coupled to receive the audio command and generate at least one network recognized audio command, independent of the terminal speech recognition engine, wherein the at least one network recognized audio command has a corresponding network confidence value;
a comparator operably coupled to the terminal speech recognition engine operably coupled to receive the at least one terminal recognized audio command

and further operably coupled to the at least one network speech recognition engine operably coupled to receive the at least one network recognized audio command; and

a dialog manager operably coupled to the comparator, wherein the comparator selects at least one recognized audio command having a recognized confidence value from the at least one terminal recognized audio command and the at least one network recognized audio command based on the at least one terminal confidence value and the at least one network confidence value, wherein the selected at least one recognized audio command is provided to the dialog manager;

a dialog manager audio command determined by the dialog manager from the at least one recognized audio commands based on the at least one recognized audio command confidence levels such that the dialog manager executes an operation in response to the dialog manager audio command; and

the dialog manager being operably coupleable to a content server such that the operation executed by the dialog manager includes accessing the content server.